



Further Information for Potential New Volunteer Leaders

Thank you for showing an interest in becoming a volunteer leader with us! Please take a read through the following information to see if volunteering with the Bauhinia Division of Hong Kong Girl Guiding would be a good match for you!

MISSION

The overarching aim of Girlguiding globally is "To enable girls and young women to develop their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world."

Additionally, the Bauhinia Division promises to provide a safe, non-judgemental environment where girls can explore the issues they care about whilst having fun, enjoying new experiences and learning vital skills. We believe being a member of Girlguiding builds a girl's confidence, raises her aspirations and gives her the chance to discover her full potential, whilst becoming a force for good.

WHO CAN APPLY

The role of volunteer leader is open to any woman aged 21 - 65 who can speak English and is willing to dedicate time and enthusiasm to be part of our expanding team.

You absolutely don't need to have been a Brownie or Girl Guide before. We provide full training for all new leaders. What you do need is a passion to work with young people as well as lots of energy and enthusiasm.

TRAINING

Initial training is over five 3-hour sessions (4 consecutive midweek evenings face to face at our HQ in Jordan and one online session) where you cover the basics of becoming a unit leader.

Following on from this are optional courses that cover every aspect of leading young girls through their Guiding journey. The courses are run at semi-regular intervals throughout the year.

UNITS

We currently have 25 English-speaking units around Hong Kong. A unit is a maximum of 24 girls. We run Happy Bees (4-6 years), Brownies (7-10 years) and Guides (11-16 years).

Some units are 'closed' – run by teachers within schools for their pupils only. Some are 'open' – run by volunteer leaders for any girl, provided she can speak English and is the right age.

Without volunteer leaders, our units cannot run and girls miss out on the amazing opportunities being a member of Girlguiding can offer them!

LOCATION

We have units that meet in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, Discovery Bay, Tung Chung and NT. When you reply with your location we will see which group/s are closest to you.

If we don't currently have a unit that meets near you, it is always possible to set up a new one! It is a fairly simple process that takes around 2-3 months. Please let us know if this might be of interest to you.

TIME COMMITMENT

Unsurprisingly, this is the most common query we receive from women who are considering becoming leaders.

Leaders from a unit work in teams usually of 4 adults with additional secretary/treasurer support. Between them they ensure that there are always min. 2 people available to lead a meeting. Leaders do NOT have to attend every meeting. We understand that life can get hectic at times. We simply ask that you are able to give a reasonable amount of notice for when you will miss meetings. (And of course, we understand that emergencies arise from time to time).

Meetings are held weekly during term time and generally last between 90 – 120 minutes.

Each unit runs independently and therefore has their own way of planning, preparing and running meetings. As well as attending meetings, you might take responsibility for the unit's admin or finances, or perhaps you will be responsible for the badge work. You might offer to run some of the term's main activities or perhaps you will take on planning the annual camp or an outing. Of course, all of this requires additional time out of the meeting. How much time you commit can vary hugely depending on what role you take.

UNIFORM

Leaders have two uniforms. A dress uniform for important occasions - either a dress, skirt or trousers and shirt and optional waistcoat. For normal meetings, our uniform is a polo shirt and our own jeans / shorts. There is a Guide shop at Jordan's HQ that supplies everything.

COST

A volunteer leader is not paid, however training costs to become a leader can be covered by the Unit that the leader will join. Girls pay weekly subs that cover room rental, activity materials, snacks etc. Volunteers are not expected to cover any of this.

OPPORTUNITIES

It seems like such a cliché but pretty much all of our leaders would agree that they get just as much, if not more, out of working with the girls, as the girls do themselves!

There is something for every personality type – whether you are happier working one-on-one with a girl, planning an enormous event for 100 Brownies or encouraging older Guides to apply for an international camping opportunity – you will find your happy place. Some leaders want to do the outdoor stuff, some love the crafts. Some enjoy working with external volunteers, some relish developing relationships with the wider community.

And it's not just the girls that get to go on adventures! Leaders have opportunities that extend beyond their unit too. This year Bauhinia Division has two leaders travelling overseas to represent Hong Kong Guiding at international leadership events. One woman travelled to India in September, and another flies to Chile in November. Both of them were financially supported by our global organization, WAGGGS, so they aren't even out of pocket! But they will come back having met new people, learnt new things and will be ready to inspire us further.

CAN I HELP IN OTHER WAYS?

Absolutely! We are really, *really* keen to hear from women who could help with the following:

- Finances (overseeing a unit's simple accounts)
- Librarian (looking after our online resource of materials)
- Graphic Design (fliers, brochures)
- Photography (special events, headshots)
- Video (special events, promotional videos)
- Social Media Marketing (to attract even more volunteer leaders, so we can get even more girls involved!)
- PR (press releases, getting us in front of new audiences)
- Specialist workshops (do you have a special skill you could pass on to our girls or leaders?)

GIRL GUIDES / GIRL SCOUTS - WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

In a nutshell:

1908 – Boy Scouts was started in England by Robert Baden-Powell (B-P)

1910 – Girl Guides was started in England by B-P and his sister Agnes

1911 – Juliette Gordon Low met B-P

1912 – Girl Scouts of the United States of America was started by Juliette Gordon Low

1916 – GirlGuiding came to Hong Kong and has been here ever since!

In essence, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts share the same vision of putting girls front and centre, but you'll generally find Girl Scouts to be more active in countries where there was more of an influence from North America and Girl Guides in Commonwealth/former Commonwealth countries.

WHAT NEXT?

If you like what you have read and would like to join us, please visit:

our website: www.englishspeakingguides-hk.com / Volunteer

or this [Google form](#) and fill in the Google form that's linked there.

Someone will be in touch shortly to get you started on your new journey! We sincerely look forward to hearing from you,

Yours truly,

Diana Lancaster

Division Commissioner

Bauhinia Division

HKGGA